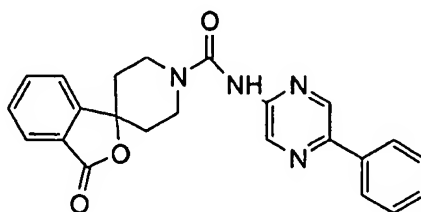


Amendments to the Claims

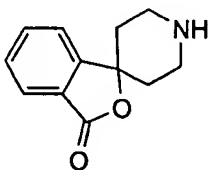
This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula I:

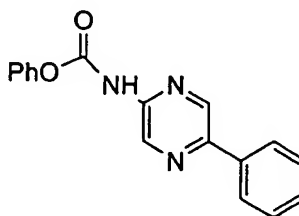


I

comprising coupling a compound of formula II with a compound of formula III in the presence of an organic base selected from the group consisting of  $\text{NBu}_3$ ,  $\text{Me}_2\text{NBu}$  and  $\text{Me}_2\text{NBn}$  in a solvent system selected from the group consisting of MeCN, MeCN/water and DMF/water.



II



III

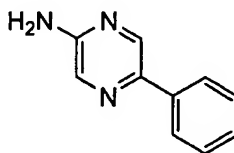
2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

2 ~~4~~. (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-phenylpyrazine (IV) and phenyl chloroformate in MeCN to yield the compound of formula III.

5. (Canceled)

<sup>3</sup> ~~6.~~ (Currently amended) The A process for preparing a compound of formula III of Claim ~~4~~<sup>2</sup> further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-bromopyrazine (V) and phenyl boronic acid in an organic solvent system in the presence of a catalyst to yield the compound of formula IV.

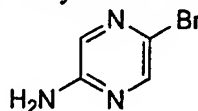


IV

<sup>3</sup>  
~~4~~ ~~7.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~6~~<sup>3</sup> wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of PdCl<sub>2</sub>·dppf·CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, Pd(OAc)/PPh<sub>3</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[(Pet<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>], Pd(DIPHOS)<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd(Bipy), [PdCl(Ph<sub>2</sub>PCH<sub>2</sub>PPh<sub>2</sub>)]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(o-tol)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub>/P(o-tol)<sub>3</sub>, Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)/P(furyl)<sub>3</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(furyl)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd(PMePh<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(4-F-Ph)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(C<sub>6</sub>F<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(2-COOH-Ph)(Ph)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(4-COOH-Ph)(Ph)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>.

<sup>4</sup>  
~~5~~ ~~8.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~7~~<sup>4</sup> wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of PdCl<sub>2</sub>·dppf·CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(4-F-Ph)<sub>3</sub>]<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>Pd[P(4-COOH-Ph)(Ph)<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>.

<sup>3</sup>  
~~6.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~6~~<sup>3</sup> further comprising the step of combining 2-aminopyrazine and a bromination agent to yield the compound of formula V.



V

<sup>6</sup>  
~~7~~ ~~10.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~9~~<sup>6</sup> wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of Br<sub>2</sub>, NBS, Bu<sub>4</sub>NBr<sub>3</sub>, N-bromo acetamide and 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.

<sup>7</sup>  
~~8~~ ~~11.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~10~~<sup>7</sup> wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of NBS and 1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin.